

# **HANDOUT PACKAGE**

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **WYTHE FIRE STATION**

This portion of the handout discusses issues and proposals for the future of the Wythe Fire Station.

#### **Concerns of the Hampton Fire Department about the current Wythe Fire station:**

Current fire station is not centrally located to serve the area covered by Fire District 3. This affects response times.

Current structure was built in the 1942. It was not built to house 1990s types of fire equipment. Cost to maintain the building is high. This also has an effect on response times.

Current location poses a safety hazard to the surrounding area. The “S” curve on Kecoughtan Road causes traffic problems for the motorists and ingress/egress problems for the fire trucks. The increased use of the ballparks and neighborhood park at Wythe Elementary School has increased the need for additional parking to support these activities. This parking has spread into the narrow streets behind the fire station and interferes with fire truck operations.

#### **Concerns of the Greater Wythe Area Planning Team**

Location of a new fire station will affect those who live near the station.

Concern for the safety of children near the station (old or new station) when EMS and/or fire trucks are responding to a call or returning from a call.

What does the community expect of fire and EMS service.

Moving the hospital out of the Greater Wythe Area to Coliseum Central increases the amount of time EMS is away from the station. This will require fire trucks to pick up calls when EMS is tied up.

If the fire station were to be moved, what are the potential uses for the old fire station or if demolished, potential uses for the land.

## Location options:

Ideal location would be near the intersection of Powhatan and Victoria. Minimum site requirements: 150'x200' = 30,000 square feet.

1. New station at Vicinity of Chesterfield Avenue and Victoria Boulevard as part of the Town Center concept.

Pluses	Minuses
Centrally located. Synergy with the Town Center. Combine fire station with other public uses. Across from Neighborhood Resources Center (Police presence). Minimal increase in overhead costs.	Development cost. Must condemn residential property. Noise in neighborhoods.

2. New station at Trailer park at Shell Road and Celey Street.

Pluses	Minuses
Centrally located. Replaces the mobile home park. Minimal increase in overhead costs.	Development cost. Shell Road is two lanes. Noise in neighborhoods.

3. New station at Sentara Hospital property.

Pluses	Minuses
24 acres possibly available in two years. Minimal increase in overhead costs.	Development cost. Same as current location. Not centrally located. Noise in neighborhoods.

4. Rehabilitate current station.

Pluses	Minuses
Could add Bill's BBQ to property. No development costs	High rehabilitation cost. Not centrally located. Safety issues still remain.

**PUBLIC SAFETY  
(Fire station)**

**ISSUE:** The current Wythe Fire Station is not centrally located to effectively serve Fire District 3. Its current location in conjunction with nearby school and recreation uses and road patterns surrounding the fire station compromises the safety of the fire fighters and citizens. The nearly 60 year old building was not constructed for today's EMS and fire equipment and requirements. These factors affect response times.

**GOAL:** Optimize the EMS and fire service to Fire District 3.

**STRATEGY:** Coordinate with the Land Use Subcommittee to identify potential locations for a new fire station that is centrally located and minimizes neighborhood safety concerns. Coordinate with the Recreation and Entertainment Subcommittee to identify potential community uses that could be co-located with a new fire station.

**Resources and Responsibilities**

<b>NEIGHBORHOOD</b>	<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>OTHER PARTNERS</b>	<b>TIME FRAME</b>
Research location options.	Planning. Neighborhood Office. Fire Department. Public Works. Parks and Recreation.	Land Use Subcommittee. Civic Associations.	Short term
Research potential community uses.	Planning. Neighborhood Office. Fire Department. Public Works. Parks and Recreation.	Recreation and Entertainment Subcommittee. Civic Associations.	Short term.
Conduct a cost analysis of rehabilitating the current fire station versus building a new fire station.	Planning. Fire Department. Public Works. Parks and Recreation. Assessor's Office. Codes Compliance.		Short term.
Prioritize location and use options.	Planning. Neighborhood Office. Fire Department.	Civic Associations.	Short term.
Community checkpoint and City Council approval.	Planning. Neighborhood Office. Planning Commission. Neighborhood Commission.		Short term
Incorporate into the Capital Improvement Plan.	Fire Department. Finance.		Short term.
Identify potential uses for the old fire station or its land.	Planning. Neighborhood Office. Fire Department. Public Works. Parks and Recreation.	Recreation and Entertainment Subcommittee. Civic Associations.	Short term.

